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THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's Student Newspaper | marshallparthenon.com | Friday, April 1, 2011

News



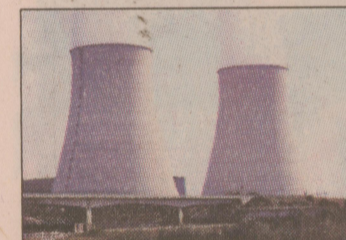
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Japanese government needs to take responsibility for nuclear disaster.
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Online



Have a story idea? E-mail us at parthenon@marshall.edu, or let us know on Facebook.

Happy April Fools!



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Online marshallparthenon.com



Volume 114 | No. 111

Schmidlapp guest lecturer discusses feminism and Islam

BY KELLEY BUGLER
THE PARTHENON

A professor from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign spoke Thursday at Marshall University for the Schmidlapp Distinguished Lectureship in women's studies.

Zohreh Sullivan, born and raised in Iran, discussed the rise of feminine activism and its place in the post-revolutionary movements in Iran.

"Within the last few years, hundreds of women activists have been arrested for voicing their suggestions on discriminatory laws," Sullivan said.

Sullivan said, despite imprisonment, women's activism has led to an increase in women in political office and the continuation of all girls' schools opening in Iran.

"In Iran, there are more women doctors today than men, and there are more women in universities than men," Sullivan said.

Sullivan said the Iranian feminist movement has different goals than the Western feminist movement because of the cultural differences.

"Because of the revolution, women have begun creative expression through art in novels and films," Sullivan said. "Women are reinterpreting gender readings of the Quran and taking an active part in things from sports to sciences."

Sullivan said her thesis states Islam is a currency and will continue to be in circulation among different people.

"The way in which you can use money to do A, B and C, the currency of Islam can be used by different camps with opposing agendas to energize people or to use it as a crackdown and make a person do certain things depending on who chooses to interpret what of Islam," Sullivan said.

Sullivan wrote a book, "Exiled Memories: Stories of Iranian Diaspora," to document a wide array of stories from Iranian women immigrants revealing hardships associated with displacement.

Rajia Hassib, graduate student in English from Alexandria, Egypt, read Sullivan's book and can relate to their stories.

"Because I'm a Muslim immigrant, I relate to what they remember and how they cope with their life here, and that interests me very much because I have lived here for 13 years," Hassib said.

Hassib said she liked that the book let women speak up and have their voices heard.

"Her book works against the typical stereotype people have of Islam and Islamic women," Hassib said.

The Schmidlapp foundation funds women's studies events and lectures throughout the region, and Marshall has been a part of the series for eight years. The fund covers a yearly lecture broadly based in women's studies.

"The lecturers are a diverse group, and we try to speak to



ARIAN JALALI / THE PARTHENON

Illinois University Professor, Zohreh T. Sullivan gives a presentation on the feminist movement in Iran to Marshall students Thursday in the Shawkey Dining Room. Sullivan has written two books, "Narratives of Empire: The Fictions of Rudyard Kipling," and "Exiled Memories: Stories of Iranian Diaspora." She travels around the nation to speak about growing feminism within Iran.

all kinds of issues from the perspective of various academic disciplines and nonacademic people as well," said Greta Rensenbrink, Marshall history professor.

Rensenbrink said they have brought in professors of literature, political science and history as well as activists who offer an historical perspective on issues.

Kelley Bugler can be contacted at bugler@marshall.edu.

MUPD makes arrest in campus graffiti case

THE PARTHENON

A reporter for The Parthenon has been charged in connection with graffiti around campus.

Tyler Wolfe, 21, print journalism major from Ripley, W.Va. was arrested on three accounts of destruction of property on Monday, March 28, at 1:07 p.m. in the North Hall of the First Year Residence Halls. During the search, items to create graffiti were found. All items were confiscated and mentioned in the official report. During the interviews the suspect admitted to placing graffiti on locations around campus and downtown Huntington.

Black permanent marker and spray paint were used on trashcan lids and numerous structures around campus. Wednesday, March 30, Wolfe turned himself into MUPD and was transported to Cabell County Courthouse.

All charges were set at \$2,500 and he was released from the court date. The case is still under investigation.

Editor's note:

The Parthenon was not aware of Wolfe's involvement in the graffiti case until charges were filed. Wolfe remains a reporter for The Parthenon, but no longer covers campus safety.

College of Science prepares for Assessment Day

BY COREY OXLEY
THE PARTHENON

Assessment Day is a day for teachers and students in the College of Science to get together and recognize their performance.

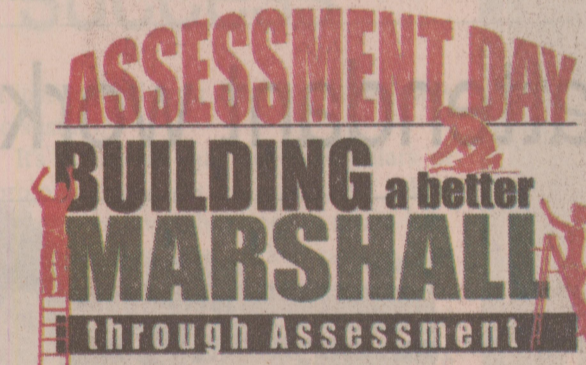
On April 6, colleges and departments all over Marshall will be participating in events that will help faculty and students improve their learning experience. Each department in the College of Science is having activities throughout the day.

"We usually have a faculty retreat in the morning where we talk about Assessment Day and how we measure students success and progress," said Charles Somerville, dean of College of Science. "In a way, Assessment Day is similar to Earth Day where one day a year you are reminded that you live in a culture of assessment."

"Assessment is always about closing the loop," Somerville said. "You do your job and then you look back and check out how well you are it. If you're not doing a good job then you probably should change something."

Somerville said Assessment Day is really driven by the departments and they set the agenda. He said the Department of Integrated Science and Technology is starting a total quality management program because it teaches that not all good ideas come from a management team. He said the really good ideas end up coming from the people who work on the ground.

"We are having a lot of faculty focus groups in the morning," said Maria Babiuc-Hamilton, professor



of physics. "If students are interested in participating during the day, they can see the list of activities in the secretary's office or online."

"We are working to find out how are students can be better served, better performed, and better prepared," Somerville said. "A couple of years ago on Assessment Day, we implemented a plan for every class to have a learning objective. It was very interesting to have all the faculty come together and have different ideas."

Somerville said Assessment Day is as transparent to the students as it with the teachers. He said students can realize they are getting a good education and see a pathway of them progressively getting better.

"What I hope it means to the students is that we are providing the best education possible," Somerville said. "As faculty, we always ask ourselves if we are doing the best job we can."

Corey Oxley can be contacted at oxley24@marshall.edu.

College of Science Activities

Physical Science

■ 1p.m. - 2 p.m.
"Numerical Relativity and Black Holes" \$277
Given by Dr. Maria Babiuc-Hamilton
■ 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Talk given by Dr. Howard Richards
\$277 Topic TBA

on the Deming Method of Quality Management.

■ 10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Guest speaker Morrow Commons
Quality control and assurance as an operational goal and management practice.

Geology

■ Noon - 2 pm.
Pizza lunch followed by discussion \$165

■ 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. iPad Demonstration Morrow Commons

■ 11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. General Open Discussion Morrow Commons
Focusing on how students and faculty see the potential use of technology (such as the iPad) relative to the IST assessment program.

Integrated Science

■ 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. "Brunch with Dr. Deming" Morrow Commons Documentary

PAGE EDITED AND DESIGNED BY WHITNEY BURDETTE
BURDETTE56@MARSHALL.EDU

TODAY ON TV



Smallville
8 p.m.
CW



Supernanny
8 p.m.
ABC



Fringe
9 p.m.
FOX



Flying Wild Alaska
9 p.m.
Discovery



Ghost Adventures
9 p.m.
Travel Channel

Police blotter...



BY COREY OXLEY
THE PARTHENON

All information was provided by the Marshall University Police Department.

Snagged Camera

A student failed to return \$3,382 worth of camera equipment to the office of University Communications on Monday, Feb. 21. He failed to return the equipment on two separate occasions. The issue was reported on Wednesday, March 23, and the investigation is ongoing.

Found with pills and needles

A vehicle fire was reported around the F lot Third Avenue on Thursday, March 24, around 11:56 a.m. MUPD officers reported Mils Ezekielray, 55, from Huntington was found sitting on the ground with several needles, hypodermic, two silver spoons and two 30-milligram oxycodone pills. Suspect admitted to using the needles and spoons to inject the oxycodone. The suspect is under arrest for possession of a controlled substance and driving under a suspended license.

Hit and run

A complainant stated to Erma Byrd Clinic that a vehicle ran into her unattended vehicle and caused minimal damage to her back bumper around 11:30 a.m., Thursday, March 24. The case is under investigation.

Missing items

Between 10:30 p.m. and 12:20 p.m. on March 24, complainant stated several items were stolen from her vehicle that was parked in the metered parking lot of 1600 Sixth Avenue. The case is under investigation.

Motor fire

A complainant reported an overheated motor around 8 p.m. on March 24, near Corbly Hall. The case is closed and no further action is needed.

Power of the purse

Complainant reported that a someone went through her purse and she later found \$50 was missing on March 26, around 2 p.m. at the Keith Albee Theater. The case is under investigation.

Missing shoes

A complainant stated shoes, laptop, and iPod were taken from her vehicle parked in the South parking lot between 1:28 a.m. and 1:50 a.m. on Monday. She said the person was unknown and there was no damage to the vehicle. There are no suspects in the case and it is under investigation.

Rock out

Complainant reported their vehicle was broken into and someone took CDs, amplifier and clothing at 2 a.m. on Monday

in the South parking lot. There are no suspects at this time and the case is under investigation.

Injured Mustang

A 2008 Mustang was reported struck over the left rear fender on Tuesday between 1:30 p.m. and 3:20 p.m. in the engineering parking lot. MUPD has no suspects in the case.

There's not an app for that

An unknown person reported a 64GB iPhone 4 was taken from an unsecured locker at the Marshall University Recreation Center on Monday between 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. There are no suspects at this time.

Locker room money

An unknown person reported \$120 was stolen from an unsecured locker at the Marshall University Recreation Center between 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Monday. There are no suspects at this time.

Missing clothing

Complainant reported several items were missing from her wallet that she left in a secured locker on Monday. She said she was also missing some clothing. There are no suspects at this time.

Corey Oxley can be contacted at oxley24@marshall.edu.

This week in

Marshall

history

BY ERIN MILLER
THE PARTHENON

This week in Marshall History: The year is 1983 and two of Marshall's residence halls are in danger of closing due to lack of residents and Marshall's performing arts department is facing an interesting decision.

To close or not to close?

A long-term lease agreement was developed to save money for students living in the residence halls not only as a thanks but also to encourage other students to make the move on campus.

Ray Welty, the 1983 assistant housing director, said the only difference between the long-term lease agreement and a regular lease is the \$100 refundable deposit and promise that the rent will never increase in the residence hall for the duration that they live on campus.

However, according to Welty, this

promise could not be applied to the cost of food on campus because an outside contractor determined food costs.

The first residence hall that was facing the chopping block was Laidley Hall. Laidley is one of the oldest residence halls on campus and due to a low number of residents in 1983 and the need for many repairs it was the most obvious candidate.

Those who most strongly objected the closing of Laidley Hall were the residents residing in single or private rooms. These students voiced that while they wanted to keep their private room they did not want to move to Holderby to do so.

Still, many students agreed that if a residence hall was forced to close it should be Laidley Hall.

However, Laidley was not the sole competitor and even after the decision to temporarily close Laidley Hall in 1983, Hodges Hall was still in peril of facing the same fate.

Hodges was temporarily saved due to the fact the hall had been recently refurbished and had undergone several repairs.

"There is still the possibility that Hodges Hall may close in the future," said Welty, "if occupancy just gets too low."

A new stage

Robert Hayes, President in 1983 said although he favors Marshall's acquisition of the Keith-Albee Theater, an additional fine arts building on campus was still needed to facilitate the school of fine arts.

Hayes said the replacement of the Old Main Auditorium must be a small, intimate theater on campus for university performances. However, he did agree the addition of Keith-Albee to Marshall would be an asset to the university especially when hosting the Artists and Forum Series and other large productions.

"The Keith-Albee cannot meet the total needs of the arts at Marshall and cannot take the place of an on campus facility,"

Hayes said, "It would, however, provide a larger performance area for the university and community."

The \$69 million bond to build the new facility was rejected in the legislature session in 1983 but Hayes felt the money would be available eventually and he felt the project would be completed within the next five years. Its size would be determined on rather or not the Keith-Albee was acquired.

Julie Jackson of Marshall's present-day Department of Theatre said that Marshall does not own the Keith-Albee Theater.

"It was actually donated to Marshall by the family that owned it, said Angela Jones, director of marketing and external affairs for Marshall's Artist Series." "Marshall then turned it over to the non-profit Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center who currently own it."

Erin Miller can be reached at miller652@marshall.edu.

Parking meter attendant works to keep city streets safe

BY JARED ROACH
THE PARTHENON

Even though it is a job that needs to be done, parking meter attendant Larry Anderson says that not everyone appreciates their work.

"People are people, I mean you don't run across anybody who's excited about getting a parking ticket," Anderson said. "But there are situations, like if a meter is jammed or broken. Sometimes it's beyond their control."

As employees of the city of Huntington, it's the job of attendants to ensure that the streets are safe and ordinances are followed.

Anderson has worked as a parking meter attendant for three years. The job consists of monitoring parking meters for violations, answering questions from the public and writing tickets when needed.

"We have to be cognizant of the fact that there might be some situations that could create a hazard," Anderson said.

Mark Tickle has worked with Anderson for the past two years and he pointed out that while many may not like what attendants do, it's a necessary task.

"You've got to have meters to turn over the parking and keep people moving," Tickle said.

Anderson emphasized the civic element of the job, as attendants also work with the public. They work closely with the city police to help citizens and visitors.

"People come in from out of town and they have questions about where to eat, where to stay, where to park and other recommendations," Anderson said.

Even though those in his profession may not be the most appreciated members of the work force, both Anderson and Tickle had



Parking meter attendant Mark Tickle ensures the streets of Huntington stay safe and that ordinances are followed.

positive things to say about Huntington residents.

"Hats off to the people who park in Huntington," Anderson said. "We have an 80 percent compliance rate and those people are doing their civic duty."

"There's not too many problems with parking, most of the people are pretty respectful," Tickle said. "Some people yell at you sometimes, it's normal. It happens maybe once a week."

Tickle applied for the job after seeing an advertisement in the

Herald Dispatch. He says that around 70 people applied and he was happy to get it.

"I really enjoy the job. You meet a lot of new people and most of the time it's pretty positive," Tickle said. "I like getting out and being outside, meeting new people, trying to do a job that's not as easy as it looks. Sometimes it's a challenge to get through the day, but it's a really good job and I like it a lot."

Jared Roach can be contacted at roach47@marshall.edu.

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Baseball to face first C-USA series against No. 25 Rice

HERDZONE

The Marshall University baseball team will play its first road Conference USA series, with a trip to the 25th ranked Rice Owls starting Friday at Reckling Park. The Thundering Herd enters the trio of slated games with a 10-13 overall record and 1-2 in league play, while Rice sits at 18-11, 1-2 C-USA.

The Owls swooped into Charleston last year and took two-of-three against the Herd in the regular season and later ended the Herd's tournament run. In the Saturday victory at Power Park, two of the most prestigious hitters in league history had a launch off in Victor Gomez and Anthony Rendon. The sluggers each connected for a pair of homers in the contest, as Gomez knocked in three RBI.

Game two starter Mike Mason recorded a

quality outing as the southpaw worked around 10 hits in 6.1 innings, giving up three earned runs while striking out three. Former members of the Herd, Tyler Gatrell and Austin Coan, earned the win and save respectively.

Gomez and fellow senior James Lavinskas turned in impressive statistics in the four games against the Owls' pitching staff a year ago. Besides his two-homer game, Gomez finished the 2010 campaign with six hits in 10 at bats (.600), scoring three runs with 12 total bases. Lavinskas clocked a .429 average (6-for-14) hitting behind Gomez in the lineup.

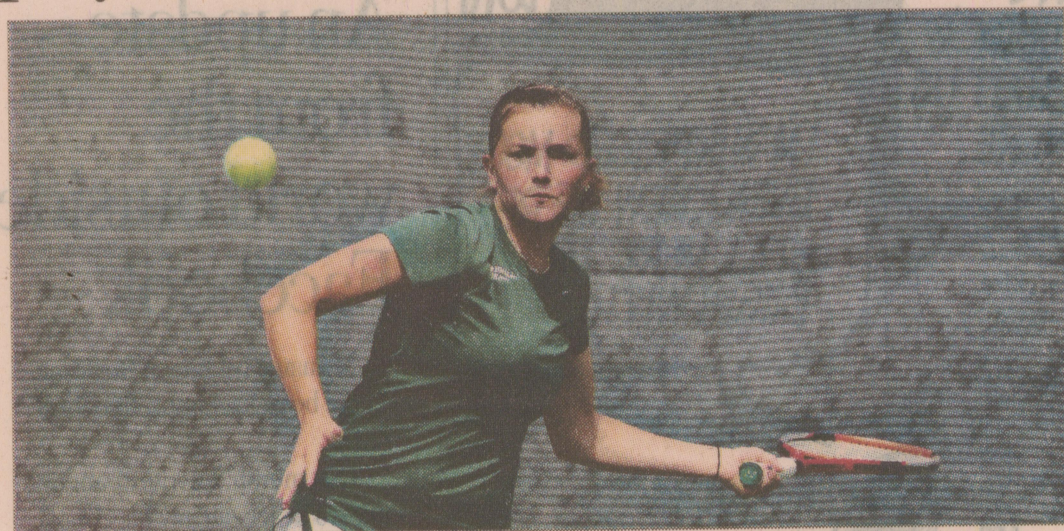
Last season Herd hit .300 (39-for-130) against the right and left wings of the Owls, however Rice clubbed at a .380 (57-for-150) clip, including connected for 12 homers.

Rice leads the all-time series 15-2.



Victor Gomez, senior infielder, blasts a homerun. The Herd is nearing .500 win mark at 10-12 and hitting .257 while opponents own .257.

No. 51 Marshall tennis team to play Louisville and No. 33 VCU



Dominika Zaprazna, sophomore from Bratislava, Slovakia, aims for a forehand winner during a singles match. The tennis team hosts two matches this weekend.

HERDZONE

The No. 51 Marshall University tennis team will compete at home this weekend as the Thundering Herd welcomes Louisville Friday afternoon and No. 33 VCU Sunday.

The Herd (13-4) is coming off a split last weekend, suffering a 5-2 loss at the hands of Winthrop, then rebounding for a 4-3 victory over Penn State.

Louisville enters on a three match winning-streak and carries an 11-6 overall record. No. 33 VCU, the reigning CAA champion, boasts an overall record of 16-3.

VCU and Marshall have shared three common opponents in Penn State, Virginia Tech and Winthrop this season. The Rams are 3-0 in those matches while the Herd is 2-1.

Sunday's No. 1 doubles contest will be a battle of nationally-ranked tandems as No. 33 Michaela Kissell and Dominika Zaprazna (14-0) look to stay undefeated against No. 29 Alex Bara and Kateryna Yergina (13-2).

The Herd and the Cardinals tangle at 1 p.m. The match with VCU is scheduled for 12 p.m. Fans can follow live stats (if the match is played on campus) by logging on to the front page of herdzone.com.

Brewers blow lead, fall to Reds

BY TOM HAURIDCOURT
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL
MCT

CINCINNATI— Opening day losses do not count more in the standings than defeats in the other 161 games in a major-league baseball season.

But you never want to begin a season like this.

"It's not any harder than losing game No. 162 like that," veteran outfielder Mark Kotzsay insisted after the Milwaukee Brewers opened the 2011 season with a crushing loss Thursday.

"It's part of the game. We'll bounce back from it and play game No. 2 of 162."

The Brewers had no choice but to take that approach after what had been a glorious day totally disintegrated in the bottom of the ninth inning at Great American Ball Park.

Cincinnati catcher Roberto Hernandez capped a four-run rally off closer John Axford with a two-out, opposite-field home run that gave the Reds a shocking 7-6 victory.

If the Brewers recorded an out on an otherwise routine grounder by Scott Rolen, the Reds would have scored no runs off Axford. That critical play occurred after Brandon

Phillips led off the bottom of the ninth by lining a single off the wall in left, followed by a walk to Joey Votto. Rolen, a below-average runner, followed with a chopper to third baseman Casey McGehee, who stepped forward and tried to tag Phillips, who was coming from second.

Phillips ducked to his left and avoided the tag. And by the time McGehee recovered and threw to first, he was late and the Reds had the bases loaded with no outs. McGehee thought Phillips left the baseline to avoid the tag, but umpire Dan Bellino ruled otherwise and replays were inconclusive.

"I thought he did (leave the baseline), but obviously the umpire didn't think he did," said McGehee. "If I thought he had stayed in (the baseline), I would have stretched a little farther to make sure I tagged him."

"In hindsight, I wish I just made the throw." Afterward, in a silent visiting clubhouse, the Brewers were left to contemplate how all of that went so wrong at the end.

"There were too many good things that happened today for us to dwell on what happened at the end," said McGehee.

"There are going to be days when you play a good game and don't come out on top. This was one of those days."

How Phillies balance their success

BY PAUL HAGEN
PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS
MCT

On the wall in the staff dining room at Bright House Field hangs a fading poster commemorating the Phillies Centennial Team. It memorializes the results of balloting the team conducted in 1983 to determine the best players of the organization's first 100 years.

What's striking now, in the franchise's golden era, is how today's roster compares to that elite group culled from the best of the best over a full century of play.

Third baseman Mike Schmidt's caricature takes center stage, and that would be just as true today as ever. The satellite sketches, though, are a different story.

Almost nobody would argue that Ryan Howard hasn't eclipsed all his predecessors as the best first baseman in team history, that Chase Utley has done the same at second, ditto Jimmy Rollins at shortstop. Sorry about that, Pete Rose, Manny Trillo and Larry Bowa.

Robin Roberts was the consensus as the best righthanded starter. Fair enough. But Roy Halladay, in just his second year with the team, is every bit as dominant now as Roberts was in his heyday. The lefty starter was Lefty, of course. But while Cole Hamels might never win four Cy Youngs like Steve Carlton did, he might already be right behind the first-ballot Hall of Famer in Phillies history. And Cliff Lee lacks only tenure in red pinstripes to be included in that discussion.

Carlos Ruiz could easily push Bob Boone's spot as the best catcher before

it's all over, too.

This is both good and bad news, of course.

It's a tribute that the Phillies have managed to construct a roster full of All-Stars and that even includes their all-time elite at a handful of positions.

The worry is that almost all these players are 30 or older. They're closer to the end than the beginning. And if putting a nucleus like this together was easy, well, ya gotta believe it wouldn't have taken them 129 years to figure it out.

So the question of how much longer the Phillies can extend their magic carpet ride is inevitable. Dynasties ain't what they used to be in professional sports. Parity rules and even baseball, with no formal salary cap, has made strides toward leveling the playing field.

"I was chatting with a reporter from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and he said something like, 'Do you think you're going to challenge the Braves' (streak of 14 straight division titles)?" Phillies president Dave Montgomery recalled. "I said, 'Are you kidding?' I mean, I've been on the other side trying to crack that. That's beyond description, an amazing accomplishment."

Montgomery also noted that injuries, a factor largely out of a team's control, can wreak havoc with even the best-laid plans.

"We're seeing how tough it is because health dictates so much. So much of your success depends on the availability of the talent you have to be out there," he said. "I'm amazed we overcame what we did last year to end up with the best record. And as we face the uncertainty here with

it just reminds you again how tough it is to sustain."

It's no secret that the twin pillars of prolonged success are gathering talent and having enough money to retain it.

The Phillies have clicked on the first half of that equation in recent years.

"It's been alluded to before, but they did a great job of drafting and establishing a nucleus," said Hall of Fame executive Pat Gillick, now a senior adviser to the team. "With Rollins, Utley, Howard, Hamels. Signing Ruiz as an undrafted free agent. (Ryan) Madson. Brett Myers. Getting that nucleus in place. Once you get those guys some experience in the major leagues and they feel comfortable up here, then you can add to the group. I think that's what happened. That group came along and they matured."

That just underscores how rare it is to see that many players who are that good in one place at one time. Gillick nodded emphatically when asked about the chances of doing it all over again.

"It's difficult. It's not easy. Especially with this group because I think the Phillies have had some very special talents in the people that I named. So, consequently, to go out and duplicate and get players of similar quality, it's challenging for the scouting corps," he said.

It's even more of a challenge when the top layer of talent is repeatedly skimmed off to bring in established talent to try to keep winning now. Michael Bourn, Geoff Geary and Mike Costanzo to the Astros for Brad Lidge before the 2008 season. Adrian Cardenas, Josh Outman and Matt Spencer to Oakland for Joe Blanton at the trading deadline that year.

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Sending best wishes to Japan's nuclear crisis

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTERS
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
UWIRE

The Editorial Board has observed the ongoing tragedy in Japan with the utmost concern. Not only have the Japanese just gone through both the worst earthquake in their nation's history and a massive and deadly tsunami, but they are now also in the midst of the worst nuclear crisis since the 1986 Chernobyl

disaster. We are alarmed by the fact that Japanese authorities seem to be understating the damage to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station and the many dangers that it poses.

Tokyo Electric and the Japanese Government have claimed that there is still enough water in the pool at Reactor 4 to hold spent fuel rods and keep them cool. However, the chairman of the United States Nuclear Regulatory

Commission has claimed that this is not the case and that the fuel rods are releasing radiation into the atmosphere.

Considering a 2005 report from the National Academies of Science that any level of radiation, however small, can cause cancer, this is especially alarming. Even worse, another U.S. official has claimed that if drastic action is not taken in the next 24 to 48 hours, Japan will have a situation that will

be "deadly for decades." Even so, bringing the situation under control would be a "suicide mission" according to the official.

Considering the danger this situation poses to not only the Japanese people but to everyone in the region, the Japanese government has a duty to be honest about the extent of the crisis.

It is hardly surprising that Japan is downplaying the damage, as the nation is heavily invested in

nuclear energy. Less than a year ago the United States government deliberately downplayed the damage caused by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico, damage that will most likely continue to hurt the Gulf for decades.

Regardless of the actions taken after this tragedy, The News-Letter sends its best wishes to those affected by the earthquake, both at Hopkins and abroad.

DAILY IOWAN GUEST
THE DAILY IOWAN
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
UWIRE

Islamophobia: America is embarrassing

On Sunday, I watched the CNN documentary "Unwelcome: The Muslims Next Door" in a state of bewilderment, anger and above all disgust. The hour long film explored the town of Murfreesboro, Tenn., which contains a large population of Islamophobes.

Phobias by nature are irrational; Islamophobia is defined as the irrational fear of Muslims.

Members of this town described Murfreesboro as warm, welcoming and accepting of all others — a great place to raise a family. That is, unless you're an American citizen and practicing Muslim expecting to be able to exercise your basic First Amendment right guaranteed to all U.S. citizens — in that case, you're out of luck.

The members of this small town (who all live under the same rock, apparently) are under the impression that being a Muslim is the same as being a terrorist. It is because of this ignorant and erroneous belief that the majority of their citizens oppose the building of a Muslim-based community center on the outskirts of town.

What's wrong with that? Essentially, it's just another mega-church, just not one that is Christian-based. To the average and seemingly uneducated Murfreesboroan, the community center is going to be a terrorist breeding ground, hell bent on destroying the "great state" of Tennessee.

All joking aside, this is the latest symptom in a growing disease that is infecting the uneducated electorate in our country. To be clear: The idea that 1.6 billion people — one-fifth of our global population — are actively trying to kill all Americans is absolutely absurd. The main issue here is ignorance, and it embarrasses me to no end that our country has an appetite for such nonsense.

Last time I checked, religious fanatics come in all shapes and sizes. Moreover, they make up an unbelievably small fraction of a large group of good-hearted individuals.

While I believe that this is the same situation — that we are merely being overly dramatic and ignorant of something that many don't understand and fear because of it — it saddens me that tomorrow will not be the day that we wake up and realize our foolishness.

EDITORIAL CARTOON | BRIAN DUFFY | DUFFYINK.COM



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Who do you want to win the NCAA men's basketball tournament?

- Kentucky
- VCU
- Butler
- UConn

RESULTS

What are your plans for spring break?

- Stay at home78%
- Go to the beach.....17%
- Go on a mission trip.....6%



DINEEN BOYLE
THE HEIGHTS
BOSTON COLLEGE
UWIRE

An update from the world outside Facebook

My name is Dineen Boyle and I have been Facebook-free for 37 days.

Last month, I wrote about my plan to deactivate my Facebook profile.

Since then, I have realized many things about my relationship with the site, the most surprising of which is that I don't miss it.

Admittedly, the first two weeks were somewhat difficult. I experienced some withdrawal-like symptoms and found myself curious about what I was missing in the social networking universe. The days I spent housebound, recovering from wisdom tooth surgery over Spring Break proved to be the ultimate test. With laptop and smartphone within constant reach, the temptation to log on was intense. It was like dangling bait in front of a shark, or placing drugs in front of an addict, or putting cookies in front of someone who really likes cookies.

During my absence from the site, I have noticed a marked increase in activities such as doing productive things. Initially, I turned to other ways to waste an average of about 15-20 minutes a day online. My efforts focused mainly on online shopping. These ventures proved mostly unsuccessful. However, I did manage to discover a 50 percent off Group on for a Segway Tour of Boston (Laminated Certified Segway Driver's License included).

Although my procrastination has decreased, I occasionally relapse. I find myself watching YouTube videos of "A monkey and a puppy playing" or "Drunk guy attempting to put on flip flops." But I catch myself and I say, "No, Dineen. No."

Through my time away from the site, I have been allowed an extropective view of the extent to which Facebook is ingrained within the lives of our generation. My conclusion: We are incredibly dependent on it.

The good news is that if you are considering leaving Facebook, rest assured knowing that it will not equate to the demise of your social life.

The bad news is that if you look super awesome in any pictures, you're going to have to rely on your friends to email them to you.

Nixon Library unveils new Watergate exhibit

BY CHRISTOPHER GOFFARD
LOS ANGELES TIMES
MCT

YORBA LINDA, Calif. — After decades of being derided as little more than a legacy-and-curio shop designed to burnish Richard Nixon's image at the expense of the historical record, the Yorba Linda library bearing his name on Thursday unveiled a raw and detailed look at the scandal that drove him from office.

The \$500,000 Watergate exhibit, four years in the making, features interactive screens, White House tapes and 131 taped interviews that replace the perfunctory, much-ridiculed narrative of Watergate that Nixon himself approved when the library opened with private funds in 1990.

Where the old exhibit featured a heavily edited version of the "smoking gun" tape that sealed Nixon's resignation in 1974, the new exhibit presents it in full. Where the old text contended that a "mechanical malfunction" explained the infamous 18½-minute gap of a key taped Nixon conversation, visitors will now be told it was likely a deliberate erasure. Where a dim and uninviting corridor once stood, there are bright graphics and artful fonts.

At the exhibit's ribbon-cutting Thursday, Timothy Naftali, director of the federally run library, said the exhibit reflected "our self-confidence as a people," and was evidence of a democracy unafraid of examining "evidence

of its own wrongdoing." At its core, Naftali said, the Watergate story was about "the self-correcting mechanism of our Constitution when one of the branches exceeds its authority."

Nixon Foundation Chairman Ronald Walker was muted in his reaction, calling the exhibit "a particular interpretation of Watergate" and saying the scandal was "one chapter in Richard Nixon's long and consequential career."

Last summer, when Nixon stalwarts — some former aides and assistants to the president — got a glimpse of how the library planned to portray the Watergate scandal, they responded with a 158-page memo assailing the proposed exhibit line by line, panel by panel.

The Nixon Foundation decried the exhibit, which was originally scheduled to open last July, as being "judgmental," with a "gross imbalance" and a "lack of context." They asked that it be modified and that Watergate figures such as H.R. Haldeman be cast in a more "complimentary" light.

GINA FERRAZZI | LOS ANGELES TIMES | MCT

Members of the public listen to former President Nixon's Watergate tapes and testimony from key players at the new Watergate exhibit, which was unveiled Thursday at the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, California. The exhibit includes a timeline with touch video screens and tapes.



Nation's oldest nuclear plant suddenly in harsh spotlight

BY AMEET SACHDEV
CHICAGO TRIBUNE
MCT

CHICAGO — For more than five years, a small group of environmentalists and nuclear critics has fought to shut down one of Exelon Corp.'s nuclear power plants.

The nearly 42-year-old Oyster Creek plant, America's oldest operating nuclear reactor, sits about 5 miles inland from a string of beaches on New Jersey's coastline, known as the Jersey Shore, that draws waves of tourists in the summer. The area around the plant, about 50 miles east of Philadelphia, is one of the fastest-growing regions in New Jersey.

Opponents say the plant shows signs of aging, making it a threat to public health and safety. They have raised specific concerns about the integrity of the steel containment structure that encloses the reactor, a critical line of defense in preventing the release of radioactive materials. After reviewing those concerns, federal nuclear regulators in 2009 allowed Chicago-based Exelon to operate the plant for another 20 years.

But that wasn't the end of the fight. The opponents appealed the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's decision to a federal court, while also scoring a small victory. In December, Exelon announced that it will shut down the plant by 2019, at least 10 years before its license expires, under an agreement with New Jersey environmental regulators that spares the company from having to build costly cooling towers at the facility.

That's still not soon enough for some. And now their campaign against Oyster Creek has received a boost from an unexpected, and unfortunate, incident.

Japan's nuclear disaster has revived the debate about nuclear safety in the U.S., and it appears that Oyster Creek could be ground zero for the discussion. The plant is one of 23 reactors operating in the U.S. that are similar in design and vintage to some of the crippled reactors in Japan. While Exelon maintains that the Oyster Creek unit remains safe, the company said it expects regulators to scrutinize the adequacy of the containment systems at Oyster Creek and its six other General Electric Mark 1 reactors.

The company also faces safety questions from a federal appeals court in Philadelphia, which is hearing a legal challenge to the Oyster Creek license renewal. This month the court ordered the NRC to address the propriety of relicensing Oyster Creek in a new context: a worst-case scenario like the one Japan experienced.

"I'm very gratified that the court is asking questions," said Richard Webster, a lawyer who represents the Oyster Creek opponents. "It goes to show that the court is taking nuclear safety very seriously."

Exelon said in a statement that it operates its plants according to the highest safety standards and that it is "proud of our world-class safety record at Oyster Creek and all of our plants."

Oyster Creek was built in 1969 by Jersey Central Power & Light Co. Exelon acquired a 50 percent stake in the plant when it merged with Philadelphia-based utility Peco Energy Co. in 2000, and it bought full control in 2002.

In July 2005, Exelon filed an application with the NRC to extend Oyster Creek's license, a business decision that Exelon and other reactor owners have made in recent years rather than try to build costly new reactors. The original 40-year term of the license was selected based on economic and antitrust factors, not technical limitations, according to the NRC's website.

Six public-interest groups, including the Nuclear Information and Resource Service and the New Jersey Environmental Federation, jointly challenged Exelon's application. They argued that the company's testing and monitoring of the containment chamber were inadequate to ensure safety margins during the 20-year extension of the plant's life.

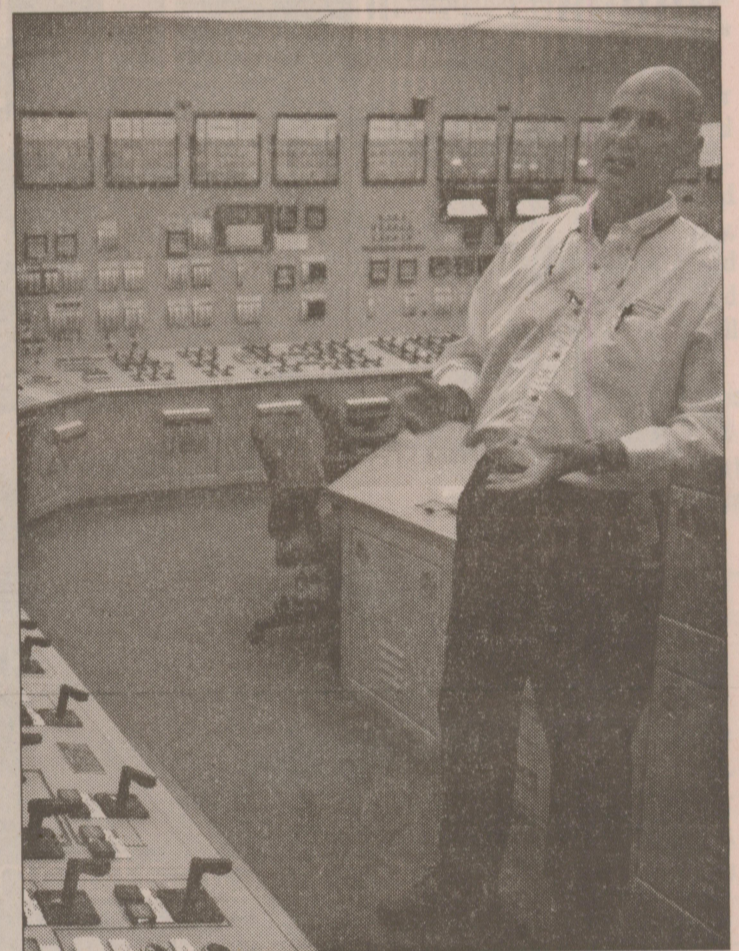
They had reason to be concerned. In the 1980s, the plant's operators discovered corrosion near the base of the 100-foot-tall shell, which is designed to contain radiation in the event of an accident. Water had leaked into the gap between the shell, which is shaped like an inverted light bulb, and its surrounding concrete shield. At the time, operators cleaned the shell and coated it with an epoxy sealant.

When Paul Gunter, of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, approached Webster for legal help with the groups' petition in late 2005, Webster was skeptical. Webster is an environmental lawyer who also has a degree in physics from Oxford University in England and a master's degree in engineering hydrology.

"I told him that the only cases I lose are against the NRC," said Webster, who works for Public Justice, a national public-interest law firm. "But we went in with the limited goal to try and get Exelon to do some more monitoring."

In February 2006, the NRC allowed the public-interest groups to intervene in the relicensing proceeding, the first time the agency had granted a request from the public to participate in the review of license renewal, Webster said.

Two months later, Exelon proposed to do additional testing to measure the thickness of the shell at the region that had experienced corrosion, according to public documents.



PETE SOUZA | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Reactor operator Chris Mitchell explains the control room at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant in Lacey, New Jersey, the oldest nuclear plant in the country in this 2004 file photo.

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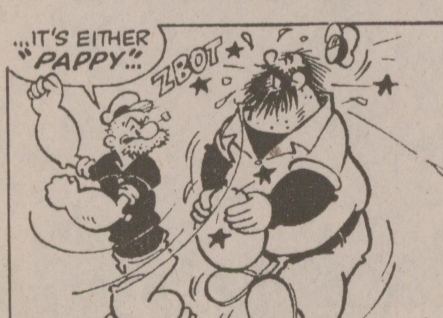
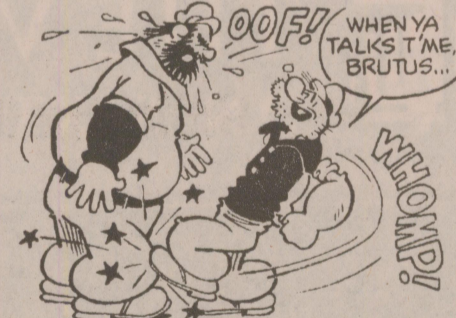
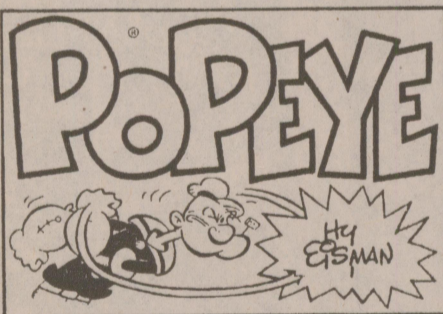
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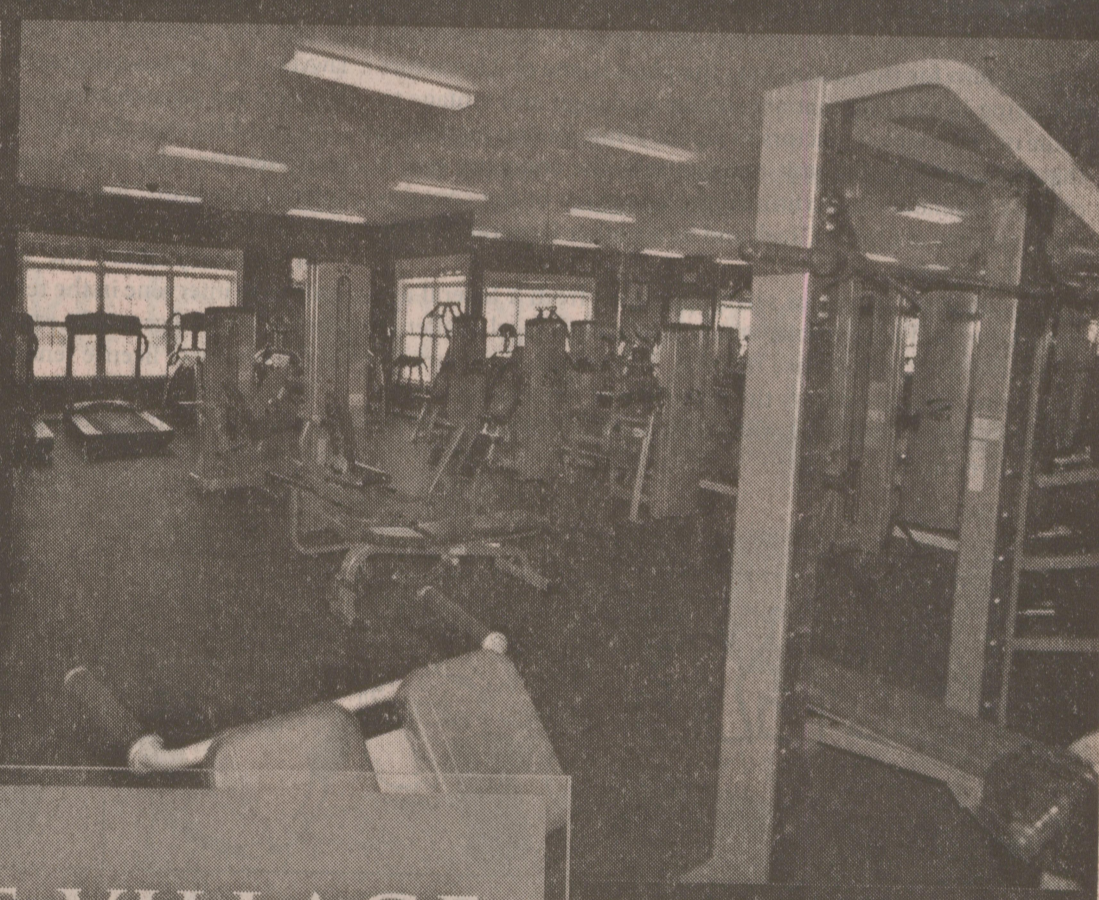


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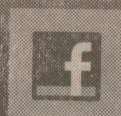
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